

Christmas 2023

# ST. LUKES NS NEWSLETTER

NORTH POLE

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear parents, students, teachers and all associated with St Lukes,

It feels as if the first term of the 2023/24 school year has truly flown by! It has been a very busy term and there have been a number of fantastic changes/additions of note to our school once again.

Emergency works were completed over the Halloween midterm to fix a leak in the roof, fix affected ceilings and walls and install new drains at both entrances to the building.

Science Week was a great success once again and children continued to impress teachers, parents and external judges with their inspired ideas and experiments.

We also held maths week activities in school this year, which was greatly enjoyed by all children. We will look to expanding on the successes of this next year.

The Christmas Fair was an incredible day in school again this year. Thank you to all who were involved in planning and organising, in manning stations and stalls and in creating the fantastic family atmosphere in school on the day. Funds raised will be combined with the bag pack (another massive success) and will be used to purchase STEM resources for the school - updates to follow on this.

I would like to wish you all a very merry and relaxing Christmas break and look forward to welcoming everyone safely back to school on the 8th of January.

Le Meas,  
Eddie Pepper

2023/24

## SCHOOL YEAR NOTIFICATIONS

- School gate open at 8.20am and closed at 8.30am. This is to ensure safety of children.
- Please keep the path outside the school clear for pedestrians and residents.
- Please refrain from parking on the road opposite the school - this is for the safety of pedestrians and children to prevent traffic having to mount the step to avoid parked cars.
- Please continue to notify teachers/the principal via the Aladdin Connect App of any absences, late arrivals or early finishing.
- Please continue to use teacher email accounts listed on the website or Aladdin Connect to schedule meetings etc.
- The New Complaints procedures have been posted to the school website, have been ratified by the board of management and will come into effect from January 1st 2024.

## SCHOOL UPDATES

- Maths week was successful in November - to be expanded next year
- Science fair was held on the 15th of November.
- Staff training in the implementation of the Primary Maths Curriculum was held on the 22nd of November.
- Teachers have been implementing Maths Talks in all classes after this training.
- New maths kits have arrived and are in use in all classes to make maths more interactive, concrete and to provide playful and engaging learning opportunities for all children.
- New furniture added to the Special class in November after visit from NCSE advisor.
- Staff training was held in the school on the 12th of December in the use of Promethean Panels. All panels were updated with new software afterwards to ensure the highest standards in interactive teaching and learning.
- School will be closed on February 9th to facilitate whole staff training in special class teaching, supporting and inclusion.
- Uniform policy and class split policy in development - updates to follow in new year.
- English Policy, Wellbeing Policy and Digital Learning Plan in development also.



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## GREEN SCHOOLS

The Green schools Committee have printed out posters for the bins in all classrooms to indicate recycling and refuse bins.

We also got each class to fill out a litter survey to raise awareness and check understanding of what litter is and how we can reduce it in our school, community and at home.

Regular litter picks are going to be taking place throughout the school and we will sort litter into recycling, waste and compost bins.

We emailed our bins provider to get bin weights for the first term so we can set targets and make a plan to reduce our waste.

## AMBER FLAG

The Amber Flag Committee have been working very hard to improve wellbeing throughout the school.

We have lots of ideas to do this such as arranging an Orange Day in school, Darkness into Light walk and mindfulness exercises.

We hope to put these into action in the new year.

In the first term, the Committee have been holding regular meetings where we share ideas and make plans for the initiative.

## STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council have written to the Board of Management to request flagpoles to be erected/installed in the school.

The Board approved this request and Mr. Pepper will work with the council to price and organise this. Flag poles will be hopefully used to display the Green and Amber Flags as well as the Cineálta Flag (antibullying initiative).

The Student council are also planning a Crazy Hat/Hair day for the new year to raise funds for 6th class Hoodies. The school is very proud of their initiative and ideas and look forward to working with the council in the new year.

## BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The New Board of Management is now in position in the school, taking office on December 1st 2023. The new board will continue the great work of predecessors in helping to make St. Luke's such a fantastic school. Policies are in development and consultations with parents and children are scheduled for the new year.

## PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWS

Christmas Fair was a fantastic success on December 15th. Parents and children raised €3600 for STEM resources. An incredible achievement! Thanks to all who took part in any way and to everyone who contributed on the day!

There was a bag pack fundraiser the week before Christmas in Dunnes, Ballyvolane. €1400 was raised and will be added to the STEM fund. Thanks to all the volunteers who gave up some of their time on a Sunday!

Parent Fi O'Meara met with the Arts Council and Fianna Fáil TD Pádraig O'Sullivan regarding the use of the Crypt in St. Luke's for PE lessons. Discussions were productive and we are very hopeful of coming to a solution in the new year that would give the school access to the crypt for indoor PE lessons, Cada lessons etc. This would be an incredible addition to the school. Special thanks to Fi for her hard work on this.

Swimming continues on Fridays after school. Sports continue on a Monday evening.

Merry Christmas to All!

**BREAKING NEWS**

Merry  
Christmas!

from all at St. Luke's!!



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# PHOTOGRAPHS

